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Q & A

Am I automatically registered to vote after I complete a voter registration application at a Secretary of State Driver Services facility?

NO—The Secretary of State's office will forward your application to your local election authority, which will process your application and mail you a voter registration card.

May I change my voting address when I change my address on my driver's license or state ID card?

YES—However, you will need to complete another voter registration application with your new address. The Secretary of State will forward the application to your local election authority, which will process your application and mail you a new voter registration card.

May I apply to register to vote when renewing my driver's license by mail or online?

YES—If you qualify for the Safe Driver Renewal program, you will receive a letter from the Secretary of State. On the back of the letter, mark "YES" where it asks if you would like to register to vote, and mail it back to the Secretary of State. You will receive a voter registration packet by mail. Complete the voter application and mail it to your local election authority, which will process your application and mail you a voter registration card.

Is there a deadline to register to vote for the next election?

YES—Although the Secretary of State accepts applications at anytime, if you apply within 28 days of an election **you will not be eligible to vote in that election**. However, you may be eligible to vote through your local election authority.

For more information on registering to vote, please call your local election authority.

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Motor Voter in Illinois

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Are YOU registered to Vote

Jesse White • Secretary of State

Applying to register to vote through the Secretary of State

The Illinois Secretary of State's office DOES NOT register people to vote. It does, however, encourage voter registration by providing voter registration applications at Driver Services facilities when applying for or renewing a driver's license or state I.D. card. Your application is then forwarded to your local election authority for processing.

TO BE ELIGIBLE TO REGISTER TO VOTE, YOU MUST:

- Be a United States citizen.
- Not be convicted of an offense and in jail.
- Live in your election precinct at least 30 days before the next election.
- Be at least age 18 on or before the next election.
- Not claim the right to vote anywhere else.

APPLYING IN PERSON

- When applying for or renewing your driver's license at a Driver Services facility, you will be asked if you want to apply to register to vote.
- If you are already registered to vote, do not wish to register to vote or are ineligible to vote, answer "NO."
- If you wish to register to vote or change your voting address, answer "YES."
- You will be given a voter registration application form to sign along with a receipt. You must retain the receipt until you receive your voter card. The Secretary of State's office will forward your application to your local election authority, which will process the application and mail you a voter registration card.
- If you do not receive your voter registration card within 30 days, you must contact the local election authority listed on your receipt from the Secretary of State.

APPLYING BY PHONE, INTERNET OR MAIL

- When renewing your driver's license by phone, the Internet or by mail as part of the Secretary of State's Safe Driver Renewal program, you will be asked if you want to register to vote.
- A packet of voter registration materials will be mailed to you **only** if you answer "YES."
- When you receive the packet, complete the voter application form and mail it to your local election authority, which will process your application and mail you a voter registration card.
- If you do not receive your voter registration card within 30 days, contact the local election authority listed in your registration packet.

* **Note: If you apply to register to vote by mail, you cannot vote by mail-in absentee ballot in the next election. However, you may vote by in-person absentee voting.**

* **If you apply to vote within 28 days of an election, your local election authority cannot process your registration until after the election, and you will not be eligible to vote in that election. However, by contacting your local election authority, you may be eligible to register to vote by other means.**

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